

## Holy Spirit Series – Lesson 2

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### I. Review:

Holy Spirit is an indescribably powerful force:

- Holy Spirit's role in Creation and the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt
- Equal part of the Triune God.

Holy Spirit is a person who has an intimate relationship with believers

- Holy Spirit has a mind, a will, and emotions;
- We know that He is not a mysterious, impersonal force in our lives.

Today we look at what the Holy Spirit does in our lives as He convicts us of sin and saves us from that sin.

### II. Discussion and Application: *How Does the Holy Spirit Change Us?*

We yearn to understand better how He begins working in a person's life in the time before that person becomes a believer. For it is the Holy Spirit that guides a person along the journey to come into their faith in Christ – we can never, and would never, make that decision apart from God's guidance through the Holy Spirit in our lives. As Jesus says in John 6:65, "no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

So it is that the Holy Spirit leads us into our relationship with God and draws us into His Kingdom in two major ways.

#### 1. The Holy Spirit Convicts of Sin

##### John 16:5-11

*5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

Jesus was using the setting of the Passover meal with His disciples to teach them about who He is, what is in store for them as His followers, and, most importantly, His impending death. With Jesus' disciples beginning to recognize the reality of the situation, Jesus uses verses 5 and 6 to acknowledge the shock and sadness the disciples were feeling at these weighty revelations. But in verse 7, Jesus shares this amazing truth with them: **"it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."**

Jesus then tells the disciples what the Holy Spirit will do when He comes: **He will convict the world in 3 ways.**

**First**, the Holy Spirit will **convict the world concerning sin** because the world does not believe in Jesus.

**Second**, the Holy Spirit will **convict the world concerning righteousness** because Jesus was going to the Father and would no longer physically be with the disciples.

**Third**, the Holy Spirit will **convict the world concerning judgment** because the ruler of this world is judged.

When Jesus said that the Spirit comes to convict the world, He was saying that the Spirit was going to come to refute the world, or assert the world is wrong, regarding its view of sin, righteousness, and judgment. As Christians, we ought to praise God that the Holy Spirit was sent to us to convict us in these ways. God chooses to use the Holy Spirit in our lives to open our eyes to our sinfulness, our lack of righteousness, and the judgment we deserve.

**The Holy Spirit graciously convicts us in order to bring us to an understanding of our great need for Him!**

#### 2. The Holy Spirit Saves

##### John 3:1-8

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God

unless they are born again. 4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

This story revolves around Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus, a local Jewish ruler. He comes to Jesus by night to discuss with Jesus the miracles Jesus had been performing. In verse 3, Jesus refocuses the conversation onto salvation by telling Nicodemus “unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

*8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

### **Galatians 3:1-3**

*1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?*

### **Titus 3:3-7**

*3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

What Jesus communicates with these verses is that there is a mystery to the fact that we do not initiate our salvation and that it can ever originate from within ourselves due to our sinfulness and depravity.

## **III. Small Group Discussion**

### **John 16:5-11**

- 1. In this setting and time, why does it makes sense that Jesus choose to refer to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper”? What was Jesus’ purpose for using that name for the Holy Spirit?*
- 2. Does the Holy Spirit help us in our current day lives in the same manner and ways as referenced here?*
- 3. Why would the Holy Spirit need to convict the world in regard to sin? What does the world believe about sin?*
- 4. How does the world determine what is righteous and what is not? How does the affect world views on ultimate judgment?*

### **John 3:1-8, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 3:1-3, Titus 3:3-7**

- 1. What is Jesus teaching about our salvation (being born again) and the Holy Spirit’s role in it?*
- 2. What does each of these verses teach us about ourselves and about God’s grace toward us through the Holy Spirit?*
- 3. What is your reaction to these passages that the Holy Spirit is the sole initiator and originator of your salvation?*
- 4. How do these mysteries of the Holy Spirit affect us as we build relationships with those who do not know Christ?*